



Midwest Poultry Consortium

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Cook Receives 2012 Outstanding Service Award

Dr. Mark Cook, University of Wisconsin-Madison, was recognized as the 2012 recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award. Dr. Cook was instrumental in the formation of the COE and has been one of its Avian Health course coordinators and instructors for the past 16 years. Mark's passion for teaching and interacting with students is evident and is shown in many ways, including a dinner he hosts for COE students at his home each summer. Mark has been nominated for Faculty Member of the Year by the students for the past 5 years in a row and was awarded the honor in both 2007 and 2011.

In addition to his work with the COE program, Dr. Cook has also been an active participant in the Midwest Poultry Research Program (MPRP). In total, Dr. Cook has received close to \$100,000 in MPRP funds and has put those funds to good use on projects such as Development of Egg Yolk Anti-Phospholipase A2 to Improve Efficiency of Meat Animal Production and as a Possible Replacement for Antibiotics and Methods to Increase Egg Antibody Levels and Improve the Economics of Egg Antibody. Mark's work is well-known and respected throughout the industry. Therefore, in recognition of Dr. Cook's enthusiastic dedication to and support of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence Scholarship Program, and the poultry industry as a whole, it is with great thanks and appreciation that Dr. Cook was honored with MPC's 2012 Outstanding Service Award.

Dr. Cook, the 11th recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award, joins past winners: Dr. Hongwei Xin, Iowa State University (2011); Bernie Wentworth, University of Wisconsin (2010); Lou Arrington, WI Poultry & Egg Association (2009); Senator Tom Harkin (2008); Wendy Wintersteen, Iowa State University (2007); Dennis Casey, Hy-Line North America (2006); Sue Lamont, Iowa State University (2005); Ron Kean, University of Wisconsin (2004); Bob Sparboe, Sparboe Companies (2003); and Congressman Tom Latham (2002). *Congratulations Dr. Cook!*



Dr. Mark Cook
2012 Recipient

Interest in COE Continues to Break Records

Interest in MPC's Center of Excellence (COE) Scholarship/Internship Program continues to grow. After a number of consecutive record-setting years, the 2012 COE once again surpassed its previous year's record with 70 applicants, an 8% increase. Twenty-six students representing 10 universities were awarded scholarships to attend six weeks of accelerated poultry science courses which began May 21 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Of the 26 students, eight completed Summer Session II and earned a Poultry Science Emphasis. In order to graduate, a student must complete all six COE courses which are offered in two summer sessions. As part of the COE Scholarship/Internship Program, students are required to participate in an industry internship which gives them valuable experience within the poultry industry and holds the potential to pave the way for future employment. In 2012, the Midwest Poultry Consortium arranged 25 internships for COE students. MPC has found that students' participation in an internship improves retention within the poultry industry.

Seasoned Faculty Critical to the Success of COE

Nationally recognized faculty from participating land grant institutions, as well as professionals from other universities, related agencies, and experienced poultry industry representatives serve as the heart and soul of the COE Program. These highly motivated individuals prepare and teach the poultry science classes offered at the COE which are educating the enthusiastic students seeking to enter the poultry industry.

With 28 faculty members participating in 2012, the program had an outstanding student-to-faculty ratio greater than one-to-one. At the inception of the MPC, a Virtual Poultry Science Department was organized. The Coordinating Council meets with MPC staff each year to discuss the six COE courses, their educational content, possible instructors, and options for continued enhancement. MPC is thankful for our COE faculty members who dedicate their time and share their expertise with the COE students; without them, the COE would not be possible.

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COE Students Recognized at Casino-Nite Banquet

The 2012 COE Banquet and Awards Ceremony attracted more than 65 students, family, board members, faculty, and industry representatives and honored both students and faculty for their accomplishments in completing another successful year. Concluding its 17th year of providing a poultry science emphasis to students interested in pursuing careers in poultry, the Midwest Poultry Consortium held its year-end banquet on June 25 at Madison's Best Western Inntowner.



2012 COE Graduates

The award ceremony honored Valerie Ponterio as the class clown (Yolkster Award), Crystal Ganz as the most dedicated student (Ducks in a Row Award), and Laura Morman as the most intelligent student (Egghead Award). In a departure from years past, the Pullet-zer Prize, which recognizes the faculty member of the year, was given separately for Summer Session I and II. Ron Kean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison earned the honor for Summer Session I, while Rob Porter of the University of Minnesota earned the honor for Summer Session II (nominees also included Murray Bakst, Mark Berres, Mark Cook, Greg Fraley, Ron Kean, Carl Parsons, Mike Persia, Rob Porter, Mark Richards, and Mike Wineland).

COE graduate diplomas were awarded by Dr. Mark Richards and gave well-deserved recognition to students who have completed both years of the COE program. 2012 graduates (first row, L to R): Alexandra Copeland, Lorryn Bolte, Faith Pronschinske, Crystal Ganz; (back row): Kristin Merriman, Kevin Gast, Joe Sylve, and Laura Morman.

Students and industry representatives took advantage of the great opportunity to network about future employment opportunities within the poultry industry. The event sponsors included: Evonik Degussa Corporation, GNP (Gold'n Plump), Hy-Line North America, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Land O'Lakes Purina Feed, Naturally Recycled Proteins, Rose Acre Farms, and Sparboe Companies.

COE Students in the News

MPC's student tracking and database system tracks COE graduates not only through graduation, but also through full-time employment. The goal of this tracking system is to help place former COE students in full-time positions within MPC member companies and to retain as many students in the poultry industry as possible.

Patrick (Mike) Banks (2007 COE graduate) accepted the position of Nutritionist with Rose Acre Farms in Seymour, IN. Mike graduated from Purdue University with a major in Animal Science.

Kindra Burger (2011 COE graduate) accepted the position of Assistant Live Production Manager with Trillium Farms in Johnsville, OH. Kindra graduated from Michigan State University with a major in Animal Science.

Melissa Evans (2009 COE graduate) accepted the position of North American Poultry Marketing Coordinator with Alltech in Nicholasville, KY. Melissa received her Masters degree from NC State in May 2012. Melissa earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri in Animal Science.

Quentin Ford (2011 COE graduate) accepted the position of Operations Associate with Tyson Foods in Pine Bluff, AR. Quentin graduated from Purdue University with a major in Animal Science /Biological Sciences.

Crystal Ganz (2012 COE graduate) accepted the position of Supervisor Trainee with GNP in Arcadia, WI. Crystal graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a major in Agricultural Studies, Animal Science.

Jesse Holmgren (2010 COE graduate) accepted the position of Barn Supervisor for Sioux County Egg Farm. Jesse graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in Animal Science, Poultry Production.

Rheannon Jordan (2011 COE graduate) accepted the position of Breeder Manager with Hy-Line in Warren, IN. Rheannon graduated from Purdue University with a major in Animal Science, Animal Production concentration.

Keturah Kreider (2011 COE graduate) accepted the position of Field Technician with Maple Leaf Farms in Milford, IN. Keturah graduated from Purdue University with a major in Animal Science.

Robert Krenz (2009 COE graduate) accepted the position of Quality Assurance Assistant Manager with John Soules Foods in Tyler, TX. Bob graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a major in Animal Science. Robert will be working with ready-to-eat chicken products.

David Larson (2010 COE graduate) accepted a new position with Rose Acres in northern Indiana. David graduated from Kansas State University with a major in Animal Science.

Shane Mart (2009 COE graduate) accepted the position of Area Compliance Manager with Cal Maine Foods in Dade City, FL. Shane received his Masters degree from the University of Florida-Gainesville in May 2012. Shane earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida-Gainesville in Animal Science.

Chad Risch IV (2011 COE participant) accepted the position of Field Service Representative - Grow Out Department with Maple Leaf Farms in Milford, IN. Chad graduated from Michigan State University with a major in Animal Science.

Abigail Sielaff (2011 COE graduate) accepted the position of Quality Assurance Technician with Daybreak Foods in Lake Mills, WI. Abigail graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a major in Poultry Science.

Corey Van Denburgh (2011 COE graduate) started his own poultry-related company and is the CEO of Miiigwech, Inc. in Oak Grove, MN. Corey graduated from the University of Minnesota with a major in Animal Science.

Dan Wilson (2007 COE graduate) accepted a veterinarian position with Rose Acres in Indiana. Dan received his DVM from Purdue University in May 2012. Dan received an undergraduate degree from Purdue University in Animal Science.

Although the following is not directly entering the poultry industry, agricultural education placements help the poultry industry indirectly and agriculture as a whole. **Joe Ankley** (2008 COE participant) accepted the position of Agriscience & Science Teacher/FFA Advisor with North Huron Secondary School in Kinde, MI. Joe graduated from Michigan State University with a major in Agriscience.